

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for the gasification of coal wherein a slurry of coal ~~and in~~ water and oxygen or air are ~~is~~ supplied to a gasification reactor, characterized in that the slurry of coal in water is heated to thereby vaporize at least a part of the water, and fed is supplied in a form of steam to the gasification reactor, and gaseous oxygen or air is fed to the gasification reactor where the coal is subjected to partial oxidation and steam reforming, and a gasification gas and a slag thus formed are withdrawn separately from the gasification reactor.
2. (original) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein substantially all of the water is supplied in a form of steam to the gasification reactor.
3. (currently amended) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein a mixture is supplied to the gasification reactor, the mixture being obtained by heating the slurry of coal ~~and in~~ water ~~to~~ from 150°C to 450°C at a pressure of 0.2 MPa to 11.5 MPa to thereby vaporize at least a part of the water.
4. (currently amended) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 3, wherein the slurry of coal ~~and in~~ water is heated with a heating medium having a temperature of 200°C to 600°C.

5. (currently amended) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein a water content is in a range of from 27 to 50 wt.% based on a total weight of the slurry.

6. (currently amended) The method for the gasification of coal according to claim 1, wherein the coal is pneumatically transferred by steam into the gasification reactor, the steam being obtained by heating the slurry of coal ~~and~~ in water.